

News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

Voice: Springfield. 217.782.5793 Chicago. 312.814.2850 FAX 217.524.0674 BBS 217.782.9233 <http://www.icc.illinois.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ICC approves railroad safety improvements in Cook County

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a public safety improvement project involving the installation of new automatic warning devices to replace existing antiquated equipment at multiple crossing locations of the Grand Trunk Western Railroad's track in Cook County.

These locations include:

- 87th Street and 103rd Street in the City of Chicago;
- 91st Street and 99th Street in the Village of Evergreen Park;
- 115th Street and 119th Street in the Village of Merrionette Park;
- 123rd Street in the City of Blue Island.

The total estimated cost for the safety improvements is \$928,670. The Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay 100 percent of the installation costs at the 91st, 99th, and 123rd Street grade crossings, not to exceed \$417,890. The Illinois Department of Transportation will pay 100 percent of the installation costs at the 87th, 103rd, 115th, and 119th Street grade crossings, not to exceed \$510,780. The Grand Trunk Western Railroad will pay all future operating and maintenance costs.

The project must be completed by Nov. 29, 2007.

ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements. The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

###